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sufficiency. One might perhaps question Professor Taylor's statement of the goal which the statesman should have in view, unless he is legislating for the agricultural industry. He says: "The highest long-time average *value* of the product of this industry is, then, the goal, when agriculture is viewed from the *standpoint of the nation as a whole*." Is it not the highest long-time average product, rather than *value* of product, which is important to the nation as a whole?

The other topics treated are: "Size of Farms," "Prices of Agricultural Products," "Value of Farm Lands," "The Farmer's Means of Acquiring Land," "Tenancy and Land Ownership in the United States and in England."

The economic influences which have governed the distribution of population between different industries and different sections of the country receive scant attention. The economic importance of agricultural methods which will maintain soil fertility is not adequately treated. This is a fundamental problem of great magnitude which our wealth of rich land has caused us to neglect, but that does not excuse a writer on agricultural economics from omitting it.

In addition to the theoretical discussions, the book contains a few tables of prices, of tenancy, and other data which add to its convenience as a textbook.

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Model Factories and Villages: Ideal Conditions of Labor and Housing. By BUDGETT MEAKIN. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1905. 8 vo, pp. 480 (209 illustrations).

Mr. Meakin's book is a very interesting one, and much might well be said in praise of the painstaking way in which the author has assembled his material. Its moral effect is greatly enhanced by the really unique set of illustrations with which it is so profusely supplied.

There is undoubtedly a tendency on the part of many of the large employers of labor throughout the world to ameliorate, as far as possible, the conditions under which employees perform their daily work, and this has manifested itself not merely in the improved ventilation and lighting of factory buildings and work-rooms, but in the provision of meals, in the establishment of schools,

classes, lectures, reading-rooms and libraries, in arrangements for recreation and physical exercise, even in the appointment of social secretaries whose main duty it is to promote the social well-being of the employee. About all these and associated topics Mr. Meakin writes plainly, straightforwardly, but attractively. Firms such as the National Cash Register Co., of Dayton, Ohio, frankly declare that they carry on their "welfare" work because it pays. It is difficult to come to any other conclusion than that it must pay. Better working surroundings, the provision of cheap wholesome meals, stimulation to reading, etc., cannot help but exert a powerful stimulation upon the economic efficiency of the worker, and should certainly promote amicable relations between employer and employee. The chief danger confronting reform of this kind is that of paternalism. It is one very difficult to avoid, still more difficult to prevent the workers from imagining its presence, and, whether present actually or in the imagination of the workers, the result is a very serious diminution of the good that could otherwise be accomplished. The author briefly calls attention to this matter, but could well have devoted more space to emphasizing the importance of the caution he gives.

The first and longer part of Mr. Meakin's book is devoted to a detailed account of labor conditions. The second part deals with industrial housing as exemplified in the houses and villages established by employers for their work-people, in many parts of the world. Here, as in the earlier section, the best work of the author is in his description of what has already been accomplished in this direction. At the same time, his remarks upon the solution of the housing problem are by no means unimportant. We note with appreciation the soundness of much that he says. Thus, for instance, he realizes the desirability of careful supervision of the present and future physical growth of our towns, so that adequate and well-arranged streets, and a sufficient number of open spaces, parks, and boulevards, shall be provided for. His position on the relation of public enterprise to private in housing matters, if we interpret it correctly, disapproves of the undue haste shown by the former to displace the latter.

Mr. Meakin settles the question of unearned increment rather dogmatically, but this may well be forgiven in view of the real usefulness of the volume he presents. It is well worth reading.

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